

# SC AHEC

## ON N E C T S

Winter  
2004

### Partnerships that Work for South Carolina

*Cheri C. Plyler, MBA, Director, Mid-Carolina AHEC*

Since the inception of South Carolina's AIDS Training Network in 1995, Mid-Carolina AHEC has partnered with the University of South Carolina's School of Public Health and Ms. Susan Fulmer, Director of the SC AIDS Training Network, to build a strong, diverse, interdisciplinary infrastructure of support and education for AIDS and HIV training in the state. While addressing the educational needs of the health professions community, this broad-based partnership extends to service providers, teachers, students, care givers and people living with HIV disease.

South Carolina is among the national leaders in HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STD). The state ranks 7<sup>th</sup> among US states in the annual rate of AIDS cases. Columbia ranks 8<sup>th</sup> among the US metropolitan areas and its rate is higher than Washington, DC. Charleston and Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson rank 18<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> respectfully. For the years 2001, 2002 and 2003, South Carolina ranked in the top 5 nationally in both congenital syphilis and gonorrhea rates.

In South Carolina, approximately 882 individuals are newly diagnosed with HIV every year. As of December 2003, 13,927 SC residents are reportedly living with HIV. Of these, 9,188 are men, 4,030 are women, and 709 are children and teenagers under 20 years of age. African-Americans are disproportionately impacted. Most residents (48%) living with HIV in South Carolina are African-American males, 25% are African-American females, 20% are Caucasian males, 5% are Caucasian females, and 2% are Hispanic.

Through the initial grant funding for the SC

AIDS Training Network, Ms. Susan Fulmer traveled throughout the state providing 1, 2 and 3-hour AIDS/HIVS training sessions free of charge. During this time, Ms. Fulmer identified numerous opportunities to bring individuals, agencies and resources together to open a dialogue and build coalitions that could best address the issues associated with the increasing rate of HIV/AIDS in South Carolina. Currently, Ms. Fulmer administers this program through her position as the Planning Coordinator for the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, STD/HIV Division in Columbia, SC.



*Conference Participants Share Information at Booths*

In an effort to continue to raise awareness and provide educational opportunities that are accessible to all partners, the SC AIDS Training Network, in collaboration with Mid-Carolina AHEC, coordinates conferences throughout the state. The 2004 South Carolina HIV/STD Conference, "*Prevention and Care: Uniting for the Journey Ahead*," was held on September 29 – October 1 at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Columbia, SC. The 517 conference participants were from 65 counties and 3 states. They heard from national experts in HIV research, policy, treatment and prevention; South Carolina health professionals; community members; and persons living with the HIV disease. A record 111 agencies from across the state participated in the activities, exhibits, and sessions offered.

The overall goal of this interdisciplinary conference is to provide an opportunity for professionals and community members to establish a dialogue

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**SOUTH  
CAROLINA AHEC**

*Excellence In Health Care Through Education*



## SCRIPT Celebrates 11 Years

By Diane Kennedy, Lowcountry AHEC Director and SCRIPT Project Director

The South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program of Training (SCRIPT) celebrated its 11<sup>th</sup> year this past summer. The program is sponsored by Lowcountry AHEC, in collaboration with the Mid-Carolina, Pee Dee, and Upstate AHEC centers. 2004 marks the second year all centers worked together as a cohesive team with the goal of preparing health professions students to deliver culturally appropriate care in rural settings from an interdisciplinary, community focused perspective. Living and practicing in a rural community enables health professions students to learn that rural health care presents unique challenges as well as opportunities for a positive, high-quality personal and professional lifestyle.

The Bureau of Health Professions' Quentin N. Burdick Program for Rural Interdisciplinary Training has funded SCRIPT since 1993. In 2000, Lowcountry AHEC received an additional SCRIPT grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Southern Rural Access Program, which is administered in South Carolina by the South Carolina Office of Rural Health. The RWJF grant allowed the program to go beyond the lowcountry of South Carolina by developing SCRIPT into the present statewide program.

SCRIPT is an intensive five-week course that combines didactic instruction, community-focused health promotion activities, clinical training in rural settings, and field trips to teach rural health, cultural awareness and the interdisciplinary approach to health care. Use of continuous quality improvement (CQI) methods throughout SCRIPT has improved the quality of implementation with increased positive feedback from participants.

The backbone of the SCRIPT team, health professions student (HPS) coordinators, are busy throughout the year in their local rural areas collaborating with health professions preceptors, community liaisons, community groups, and the many other individuals and groups it takes to bring this project together.

### 2004 SCRIPT Students By Discipline

Nursing	27
Medicine	17
Pharmacy	13
Physician Assistants	6
Health Administration	7
Public Health	3
Dental	2
Social Work	2
Speech	2
Advance Practice Nurse	1
Nutrition	1
Physical Therapy	1

SCRIPT has grown from one session placing 12 students from one university in four counties in 1994, to five sessions in 2004, placing 82 students from six universities in over 20 counties across the four AHEC regions of the state. SCRIPT students participate from the following universities: Medical University of South Carolina, Clemson University, Francis Marion University, University of South Carolina, South Carolina State University, and Winthrop University. The health professions disciplines represented include medicine, dentistry, physician assistant, pharmacy, nursing, graduate nurse practitioner, physical therapy, health nutrition, health promotion and education, health administration, and social work.

Student comments from the 2004 SCRIPT program were very favorable. A health administration student from MUSC found the interdisciplinary nature of the course enlightening and stated, "I gained an appreciation for working with other health disciplines in rural health care." A BSN student felt that "meeting new people and experiencing rural life on a daily basis was very valuable". A medical student thought the clinical portion was valuable saying, "I have gained so much confidence in myself as a future doctor."

SCRIPT has shown it is making an impact. In a questionnaire to determine practice pattern outcomes that was administered to program participants from 1994 to 1999, there were 95 respondents, representing 10 disciplines. The survey results showed that 85% indicated an intent to practice on an interdisciplinary team and 55% an intent to practice in a rural area.

SCRIPT has shown that immersion of health professions students for a relatively short period of time in rural, interdisciplinary, community-based health care increases their likelihood of selecting a rural, underserved practice.



### 2004 SCRIPT Students by University

MUSC	USC	FMU	SCSU	Winthrop	Clemson	Total
40	14	13	8	4	3	82

## Hilton P. Terrell, MD, PhD Receives Halford Award

The 2004 James G. Halford, Jr., MD Award for Leadership in Humane Education was bestowed on Hilton P. Terrell, MD, PhD on November 12, 2004 at the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians Annual Meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

The Halford Award recognizes Dr. Terrell's outstanding contributions as a role model and teacher for students and residents training for careers in primary health care. This award signifies his outstanding accomplishments as an educator in living and promoting the ideals of caring, dignity, respect, passion, and joy in learning, working, and playing together.

Dr. Terrell is the Coordinator of Undergraduate Education in the McLeod Regional Medical Center Department of Family Medicine in Florence, and an Associate Professor of Family Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. He graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Ph.D. in Psychology, and from the Medical University of South Carolina with a degree in Medicine.

Along with a number of awards and recognitions for his years of service, Dr. Terrell has been named "Teacher of the Year" six times by the McLeod Family Practice Residency Program. Dr. Terrell's colleagues had impressive words of praise when nominating him for the Halford Award:

*"Dr. Terrell has long been engaged in the education of medical students, residents, and practicing physicians. His expertise and depth of knowledge in a vast number of subjects is exemplary. His continued and long standing involvement in medical education is a benchmark for other faculty and his genuine concern for the health and well being of patients is unparalleled. His interactions with patients, friends, medical students, residents and colleagues are compassionate and humble. He is always approachable and has the unique ability to bring a sense of simplicity to the most difficult situation."*

*"Among the faculty, Dr. Terrell offers a distinct, unique perspective in thinking about issues ranging from health maintenance to complex decision making. His vast knowledge and readings in the humanities and general literature make his broad perspective highly sought after and valued. His clarity of thinking, sharp wit, and superb articulation offer novice learners, as well as experienced clinicians, clear boundaries upon which to develop, enhance, and organize a model for healthcare."*

Congratulations Dr. Hilton Terrell, 2004 James G. Halford, Jr. Award winner!



Dr. Hilton Terrell receives award from Dr. David Garr

### Continued From Page 1

and share past successes, common concerns, and hope for the future. The conference theme focuses on the need to work together to integrate prevention and care, and the development of strategies to address issues of diversity and promote cohesiveness and unity among all affected communities. In response to the overlapping epidemics of HIV and STDs in the state, it is essential to build on the prevention, treatment and care strategies that have been successful.

This year's program included 5 keynote speakers and 50 concurrent sessions. Keynote speakers for the 2004 conference included: Mervyn Silverman, MD, MPH, Former President, American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR); Christopher H. Bates, Acting Director,

US Department of Health & Human Services; Jacqueline Coleman, MEd, Principal and Visionary Leader, Vision Que! LLC; Julie M. Scofield, Executive Director, National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD); and George W. Roberts, Ph. D, Associate Professor for Prevention Partnerships, Center for Disease Control, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention.

The continued success of this conference facilitates and provides numerous opportunities for increased awareness and professional development, as well as, access to national and international expertise in the area of HIV/AIDS. Mark your calendar now for the 2005 HIV/AIDS Annual Conference which will be held October 26 –28, 2005 at the Greenville Hyatt in Greenville, SC. For additional information about this initiative, please contact Mid-Carolina AHEC at 803-286-4121.



## ACGME Training Tackles New Competencies

A day long faculty development workshop focusing on two of the new Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) required competencies, systems-based practice and practice-based learning and improvement, was held Wednesday, September 22, 2004 at the Midlands Technical College Center of Excellence for Technology in Columbia. This program covered knowledge, skills, and assessments related to the two competencies, and was presented through cases, interactive learning activities, and didactic content. Twenty-five residency program directors, assistant directors, GME curriculum developers, and other faculty members responsible for educating physicians-in-training attended the workshop or took advantage of the SC ETV satellite linkup.



*Faculty Attend ACGME Training*

This program was made possible by a partnership with the South Carolina AHEC, the Tufts Health Care Institute (THCI), and the Center for Health Services Financing and Managed Care, Health Resources and Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services.

The workshop content was presented by faculty experts who teach and assess these competencies: Ralph Halpern, MSW, Director of Content Development and Program Evaluation at THCI; Robin Richman, MD, Chief Medical Officer at THCI; and Patrick Alguire, M.D., Clinical Professor of Medicine at Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia.

### ***Notable Quotes from Attendees***

“The Conference was extremely valuable and helped me to not only better understand the Practice Based Learning and Improvement and Systems-Based Practice competencies, but to know how to better teach and evaluate these competencies in our residency program. I really enjoyed the interactivity in the session and especially the session that allowed us to develop a project to address a current problem using the competency model.

The situation discussed in my small-group (improving rotation evaluations for non-Family Practice rotations like orthopedics) was quite valuable and will be incorporated into our residency program. We will focus on small curriculum objectives (e.g. adequacy of a shoulder exam) and attempt to show that these skills were taught, reinforced, and then evaluated by the rotation and Family Practice faculty.”

**– Dr. Gary Goforth, Director of Medical Education and Residency Program Director, Self Regional Healthcare Family Medicine Residency Program**

“Documenting the teaching and direct resident feedback on the six competencies will be the most difficult aspect of the Outcome Project. I believe we are doing a good job teaching and evaluating our residents, but documentation of these activities is challenging for each individual resident. I believe this is a move in the right direction, although painful to overhaul all the forms for correct language and to keep up with all the documentation changes, the philosophical tenets of the process are sound and with good intent. We all want competent physicians based on measures that are more than just ‘he seems good to me’.

As practicing physicians, we need to be able to assess what we are doing, how we are doing and what are our outcomes. Family Medicine is in dire need of outcome evidence research. We need to start training our residents to how assess their own patient populations if we want researchers in the future.”

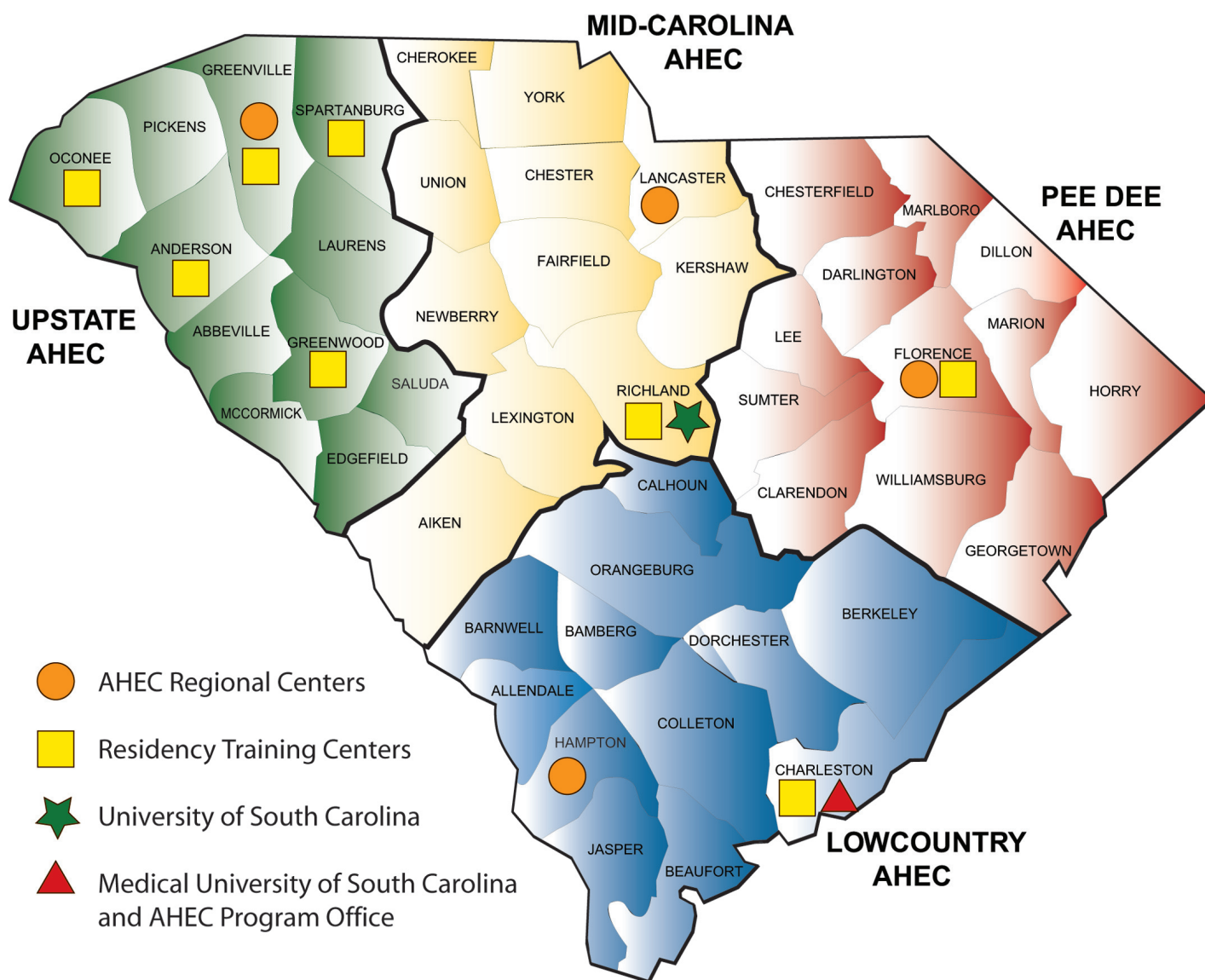
**– Dr. Jamee Lucas, Director, Palmetto Health Family Medicine Program**

## South Carolina AHEC System

The South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (SC AHEC) exists to help improve the health of South Carolina's citizens. Established in 1972, we are the only organization in South Carolina that addresses health care workforce needs starting at the level of primary and secondary school education and extending to practicing health care professionals throughout the state. The success of the SC AHEC is due to the excellent partnerships that have been built with South Carolina's colleges, universities, teaching hospitals and communities.

Services Provided Include:

- Continuing Education for Health Care Professionals
- Recruitment & Retention Programs
- Health Professions Student Programs
- Student Development & Diversity Programs
- Graduate Medical Education



For additional information about the South Carolina AHEC system, visit our website at [www.scahec.net](http://www.scahec.net). There you will find links to the four SC AHEC regions, eight residency training programs and numerous program partners. Detailed information about upcoming events and program activities is also available.

## Mental Health Rotation Benefits Students & Patients

By Kam Richardson, HPS Coordinator, Pee Dee AHEC

Pee Dee AHEC recently established a new Mental Health site for Physician Assistant (PA) students. The first PA student at McLeod Behavioral Health completed a 3-week rotation where students are exposed to both the inpatient and outpatient settings of Mental Health.

Pat Godbold, McLeod Behavioral Health's Director, and the medical staff agreed to offer the rotation to the PA students because they are committed to teaching, and feel that the students can benefit from working on the inpatient unit. Ms. Godbold states, "We have enjoyed having our first PA student, and look forward to having other PA students as well."

Each patient is seen individually by a psychiatrist on the unit, and is followed by a case manager who assists in discharge planning, counseling, and follow-up services. This is a wonderful, "first-hand", opportunity for students to experience psychiatric services. The student observes Emergency Room consults, assessments, and group and individual counseling sessions. Additionally, the students



*Keiran Walsh with Drs. Khan & Farina at McLeod Behavioral Health Services*

are exposed to commitment proceedings, and follow-up services for medication monitoring and outpatient counseling services.

Keiran Walsh is one of the PA students enrolled in the new Masters level program. She explains that she "knew going into this that she would be the one setting the standard for the other students." The results of her rotation have been positive. "This has been a good experience", Keiran says. "I have been able to work directly with the patients, as well as the entire staff of Behavioral Health."

McLeod Behavioral Health Services is a 23 bed in-patient psychiatric unit located at McLeod Regional Medical Center and is one of the only remaining psychiatric units in the area. This facility has been in operation since 1987, and in the spring of 2005 will relocate to Wilson Medical Center in Darlington, S.C. The new facility will feature 24 patient rooms in two wings, with two large outdoor courtyards for patients and staff.

For additional information about Health Professions Student programs in the Pee Dee, call 843-777-5343.

## NAO Presentation Leads to Collaboration Between States

By Ann Griffith, Education Consultant, and Missy Dye, Program Assistant, Upstate AHEC

At the 2001 National AHEC Organization Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, Ann Griffith of Upstate AHEC and Cheri Plyler of Mid-Carolina AHEC presented "Continuing Education's Best Practice Standards of South Carolina AHEC." The Best Practice document shared at that session caught the attention of Charlene Chirillo, Continuing Education Coordinator for Gulfcoast South AHEC in Sarasota, Florida.

Recently, Ms. Chirillo was charged with developing a needs assessment survey for the four county health departments in her Florida service area. After looking through the educational tools included in the SC AHEC "Best Practice Standards" booklet, Charlene requested additional resources from Ms. Griffith in developing a formal survey. After collecting additional input from Continuing Education Coordinators across South Carolina, Ms. Griffith

forwarded a three-part assessment tool to Ms. Chirillo for her use.

The resources from South Carolina proved to be very helpful to Gulfcoast South AHEC. Ms. Chirillo is still developing a final needs assessment for her service area but says, "I may use some components from each survey and create my own survey." She plans to share the final product with her South Carolina counterparts.

"I was excited to support the efforts of an AHEC in another state", explains Ann Griffith, Continuing Education Consultant for Upstate AHEC. "That kind of collaboration is what the NAO strives to facilitate".

Thanks to the collaborative spirit of South Carolina AHEC and Gulfcoast South AHEC, the resulting formal needs assessment survey will benefit both states. This type of sharing is not the first in SC AHEC's history and work continues to foster collaborative efforts across state lines.



## Students Encouraged to Explore Nursing Careers through Partnership with Clemson University

By Missy Dye, Upstate AHEC Program Assistant

Fifty high school students from across South Carolina gathered October 29, 2004 at Clemson University's Hendrix Center for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual AHEC ACUMEN (Academic Collaboration for Underrepresented Minority Enrollment in Nursing) Day.

The program was cosponsored by Clemson University's School of Nursing and the Upstate AHEC's Student Development and Diversity Program (SDDP) to encourage minority students to explore career options in nursing. The event was funded by Clemson's ACUMEN grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions.

Dr. Veronica Parker, Associate Professor in the Clemson University School of Nursing, welcomed the students to the campus. A session on "Preparing for College" was presented by Linda Gilbert, Program Coordinator for Project ACUMEN, and was followed by presenters from the offices of Admissions, Financial Aid, and Housing. The morning concluded with a question-and-answer session hosted by the Gantt Intercultural Center.

After a lunch presentation on the need for diversity in the nursing workforce by Dr. Remonia Ashmore, students received a tour of the campus and divided into smaller groups for specific sessions on nursing opportunities and issues. Speakers from Clemson University's faculty and graduate nursing program taught students the basics of nursing, including how to take a patient's blood pressure and pulse.

For more information about Upstate AHEC's Student Development and Diversity Programs, please call (864) 349-1160.

## Pee Dee Students Prepare for SAT Testing

By Judy Jones, Pee Dee AHEC SDDP Coordinator

The Pee Dee AHEC Student Development and Diversity Program (SDDP) sponsored a regional SAT strategies workshop at the McLeod Family Medicine Center on October 2, 2004. Facilitated by the Kaplan Testing Center of Columbia (SC), participants were provided with tips on how to best sit for the national standardized exam.

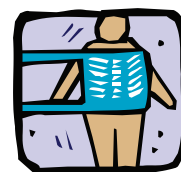
Fifty-eight students representing seven of the counties comprising the Pee Dee region took advantage of this opportunity. A new version of the exam will be administered by the College Board beginning in March of 2005. In preparation for the revised exam, program participants were provided with information designed to increase testing performance. Judy Jones, Pee Dee SDDP coordinator anticipates that, "a student's ability

to better analyze the questions combined with a familiarity of the test layout and testing procedures will positively affect their test scores."

Changes to the SAT include:

- A student-written essay
- Elimination of analogies
- Shorter reading passages have been added
- New content from third-year college preparatory math
- Quantitative Comparisons have been eliminated

Additional information regarding changes to the SAT and useful study tools are available on the Scholastic Board website at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). For additional information about Student Development and Diversity Program activities at Pee Dee AHEC, please call (843) 777-5343.



## Health Professional Career Profile

### Doctors of Medicine

Doctors of Medicine, also known as physicians, are medical practitioners who diagnose and treat human diseases and injuries. Physicians may be general practitioners or they may specialize. They continually acquire knowledge in order to keep abreast of advances in technology, equipment, techniques and medications. Depending on their specialty areas, they diagnose and treat illnesses of children and/or adults through therapy, surgery or medication; they teach people how to stay well; they conduct research on diseases and new methods of prevention and treatment; and they teach medical students and residents.

#### Areas of Specialization

Primary care physicians practice in most areas of medicine and refer patients with complex medical problems to specialists.

Primary care areas include:

- Emergency medicine • Family practice • Internal medicine • Pediatrics (emphasis on children's health)

Other specialists diagnose and treat patients with illnesses and/or injuries related to specific branches of medicine or parts of the human body.

#### Places of Employment

- Armed forces • Clinics • Government health agencies • Group practices • Health maintenance organizations (HMOs) • Hospitals • Industries/corporations • Long-

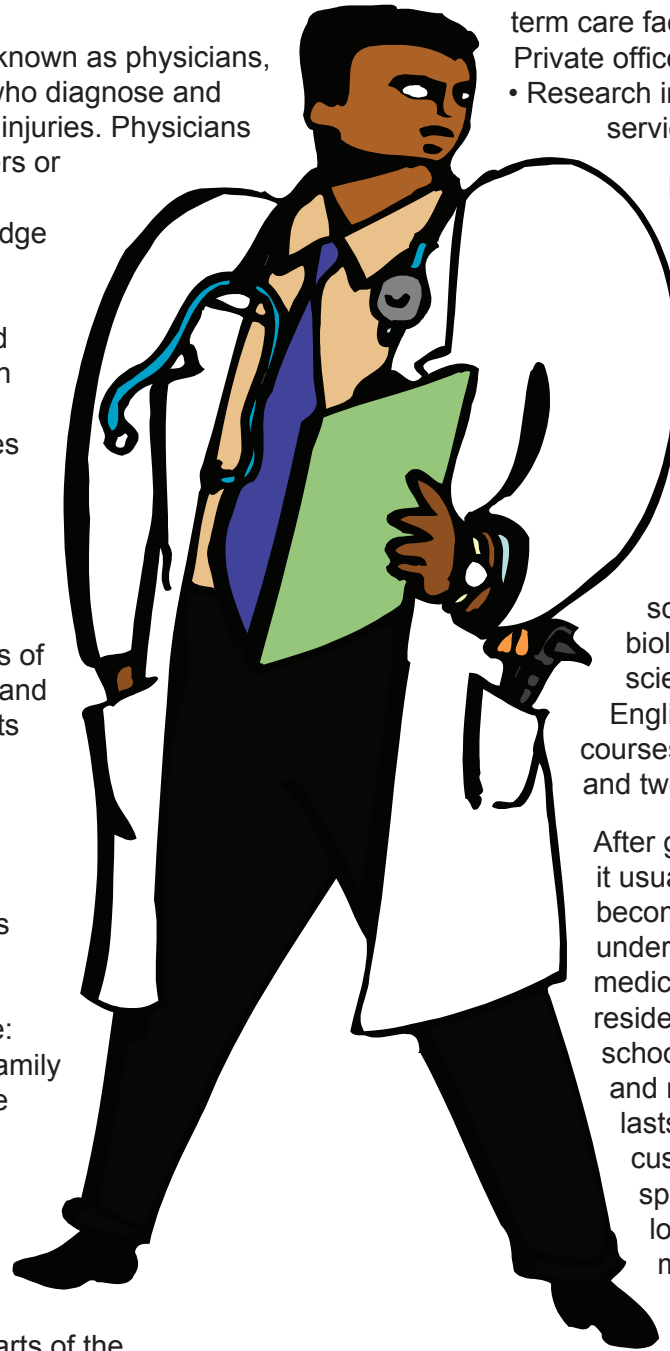
- term care facilities • Medical schools • Private offices • Public health departments • Research institutes • Student health services

#### Educational Preparation

Students interested in becoming physicians should take college preparatory courses in high school including: three courses in math including Algebra I, Algebra II and geometry or a higher level math course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite; three science courses including one biological science, one physical science and one lab course; four English courses; two social studies courses including one in U.S. history; and two years of foreign language.

After graduation from high school, it usually takes about 11 years to become a physician: four years of undergraduate school, four years of medical school, and three years of residency. However, a few medical schools offer a combined college and medical school program that lasts six years instead of the customary eight years. For some specialties, residency may take longer, up to eight years. The most common requirements for entering schools and colleges of medicine are: 1. Completion of a pre-medical

college or university program or its equivalent (four years) with an acceptable grade average. In general, a college curriculum should include: six hours of English; eight hours of biology, including vertebrate zoology; 16 hours of chemistry





(inorganic and organic) and eight hours of physics. Students should also take courses in the humanities and the social sciences. In order to gain practical experience in the health professions, students may also want to volunteer at a local hospital or clinic. 2. Application through the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). 3. Passing the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) with a competitive score. 4. A personal interview, additional applications, further testing, as required and letters of recommendation. Schools also consider character, personality, leadership qualities and participation in extracurricular activities.

### Licensure, Certification and Registration

To practice as a physician, one must pass an examination for state licensure from the South

Carolina Board of Medical Examiners as well as a National Medical Licensure Examination.

### Educational Programs

- Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston
- University of South Carolina, Columbia

### Professional Organizations

American College of Physicians, Independence Hall West, Six Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-1572, 215-351-2578, [www.acponline.org](http://www.acponline.org) • American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60610, 312-645-5000, [www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org) • South Carolina Medical Association, Post Office Box 11188, Columbia, SC 29211, 803-798-6207, [www.scmanet.org](http://www.scmanet.org) • South Carolina State Board of Medical Examiners, Post Office Box 11289, Columbia, SC 29221, 803-896-4500, [www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/medical](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/medical)

## Dr. White Called to Family Medicine

The family medicine physician is one of the most widely recognized specialties in health care. Our first memories often include the interaction we had with a family medicine doctor. They are usually the health professionals we visit in the event of illness, for basic health maintenance, or for a required physical examination to start school or play sports. Considered a member of the primary care team, the family medicine physician provides continuing and comprehensive health care for individuals and families, young and old.

Dr. Janeen White, a board certified Family Physician and Student Development & Diversity Program (SDDP) Alumna, decided to become a physician at the age of 10. "At that time, and until the end of medical school, I wanted to be a pediatrician," recalls Dr. White. "I didn't change my mind until after I asked God where I would be most beneficial. The answer to my prayer was family medicine. I knew with this training not only could I help children, but I could also play a major role in improving the health of people of all ages."

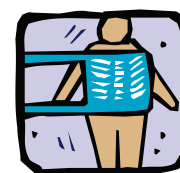
Dr. White was involved in the SDDP activities in the Lowcountry AHEC region early in her medical school studies. She assisted in the facilitation

of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) health career clubs while at MUSC. "The AHEC staff was there to encourage and support me during my stay at MUSC," explains Dr. White. "They were some of the ones who continued to push me to where I am today; for that I am grateful."



Currently, Dr. White serves as the head physician at Family Medicine Associates, an AnMed Office, in Hartwell, Georgia. "I not only take care of children and adults, but I also provide obstetrical care." Dr. White continues to serve as a role model for members of the SC AHEC Association of Future Health Professionals during the Summer Institute, and has been involved in Upstate AHEC's summer enrichment program which, since its inception, has been held at AnMed in Anderson County.

In addition to her health care practice, Dr. White teaches family medicine residents obstetrics as a part of the AnMed Family Medicine Residency Program. When asked how she feels about reaching her professional goal, she exclaims, "I love what I do! My advice to those aspiring to work in the medical field is to choose a field where you will have fun."



## NeuroBlast!

Welcome to **NeuroBlast!**, a new addition to the newsletter designed to improve the reader's knowledge of health careers and terminology. Each edition will include a new version of **NeuroBlast!** Test your knowledge and challenge your friends.

Patients with complex medical problems are usually referred to medical specialist for diagnosis and treatment. Can you identify the specialty areas of medicine? Answers can be found at **WWW.SCAHEC.NET**.

1. Which medicine specialist administers anesthesia (numbness or sleep) to patients undergoing surgery?
2. Which medicine specialist treats heart disease?
3. Which medicine specialist treats skin conditions?
4. Which medicine specialist diagnoses and treats digestive system ailments?
5. Which medicine specialist diagnoses and treats female reproductive system disorders?
6. Which medicine specialist focuses on the brain and central nervous system?
7. Which medicine specialist treats pregnant women and delivers babies?
8. Which medicine specialist provides care to patients with malignant or cancerous tumors?
9. Which medicine specialist diagnoses and treats eye disorders?
10. Which medicine specialist treats skeletal deformities or ailments?

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| A. Orthopaedics      | F. Oncologists         |
| B. Anesthesiologists | G. Obstetricians       |
| C. Gynecologists     | H. Dermatologists      |
| D. Cardiologists     | I. Gastroenterologists |
| E. Ophthalmologists  | J. Neurologists        |

**Resource: Health Care Roots for Your Future**

## Mid-Carolina AHEC Associates Go To Mini-Med School

By Angel Clark, Mid-Carolina AHEC SDDP Coordinator, & Angelica Williams, SDDP Director

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine (USC-SOM) opened its doors to the midlands community and members of the SC AHEC Association of Future Health Professionals with its third annual Mini-Med School. Mid-Carolina Chapter Associates Jason Williams and Aisha Martin eagerly took advantage of the invitation to attend the Mini-Med School for an opportunity to gain insight into major health and social issues of South Carolina.

The School met weekly for five weeks of sessions entitled, *Antidepressants: Is There Really Better Living Through Chemistry*; *ER: It's Not Just Must See TV!*; *Hypertension & Stroke: A Practical Approach*; *To Internet or Not to Internet*; and *USC School of Medicine and MUSC Relations: The Real Story*.

Open to area residents in the Midlands, the Mini-Med School is a complementary resource to the activities being conducted by Mid-Carolina AHEC's Student Development & Diversity Program. Participants are encouraged to have a great time while learning to take charge of their personal health and health care.

"USC Mini-Med School has provided not only an actual medical classroom setting, but has given me insight on various fields within the medical profession", explains Jason Williams. "One field that I became particularly interested in is Sports Medicine".

Members of the USC-SOM faculty served as session facilitators and provided networking opportunities for the future health professionals.

"The Mini-Med School offers the lay public an opportunity to learn about relevant medical topics and experience classes at the School of Medicine", states Carol McMahon, MD, Director of Minority Affairs at USC-SOM. "The end result is a win-win for the public and the School because



participants come away with pertinent, cutting edge medical information and the School gets the chance to showcase its facilities and the talent of its faculty”.

Dr. McMahon is “delighted that students from the Student Development & Diversity Program have been able to participate in the 2004 Mini-Med School Seminars”.

The Mini-Med School program culminated with a graduation ceremony on Tuesday, November 16 for participants who had successfully completed the program requirements. For more information about Mid-Carolina’s Student Development and Diversity Programs, please call (803) 286-4121.

## Broadcast Focuses on Minority Representation in Health Professions

By Angelica Williams, SDDP Director

The SC AHEC Student Development & Diversity Program (SDDP) continues to establish partnerships to increase the number of minority individuals in the state’s health care professions workforce. The success of one partnership was demonstrated on a recent South Carolina Education Television broadcast.

**Our Health: Changing the Face of Healthcare** aired on SC ETV on Friday, November 5, and Sunday, November 7. Sponsored by Project EXPORT, a Medical University of South Carolina and SC State University collaborative effort, **Our Health** is a series of panel discussions regarding the disparate health conditions of African-American and Hispanic populations in the state. The program investigated how the lack of ethnic minorities within the health care workforce impacts the quality of health within South Carolina.

Program panelist included: Judith Salley-Guydon, PhD, Executive Director/Program Manager LS-

SCAMP Program and Interim Chair, Department of Biological & Physical Sciences, SC State University; Pamela J. Mazyck, PharmD, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy and Clinical Sciences, MUSC; Gerald A. Wilson, MD, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, SC Medical Association; J. Allen Zow, JD, Executive Assistant in Legal Counsel, Savannah State University; Irma Santana, Founder and current Board Member, Hispanic Outreach, Inc.; and SC AHEC Association of Future Health Professional member, Gerald Pressley, 2<sup>nd</sup> year dental student, MUSC.

Mid-Carolina AHEC Association of Future Health Professional members served as audience members and demonstrated great interest in the topic. Association member Christina Myers, a C. A. Johnson High Senior, posed a question to the panel on how to best deal with discouragement that is a result of discrimination. Panelists encouraged her to understand that prejudice exists and that personal recognition of one’s inner talents and skills is key. She, along with the other youth in the audience, was encouraged to identify health professionals within the community that could provide guidance and examples by which to model.



*SDDP Graduate Gerald Pressley Serves as Panelist*

Panelist Gerald Pressley, Association member since 1995, encouraged potential health care professionals to explore professions through shadowing and internship opportunities such as he experienced through the Upstate AHEC SDDP. He recalled peers who choose more entertaining and social experiences in high school and college, and emphasized the need for goal setting and perseverance. Throughout the 60-minute program, Gerald buoyed the value of AHEC programming and participation by those who think they may have an interest in health care careers.

A repeat airing of the broadcast will occur in conjunction with the full **Our Health** series during the summer of 2005. Check your local listings for dates and times. Copies of the program can be requested by contacting Richard Jablonski at [jablonsr@musc.edu](mailto:jablonsr@musc.edu). Additional information regarding Project EXPORT can be found at <http://export.musc.edu>.





## Bioterrorism Preparedness and Training Conferences Address Needs of Pharmacists & Nurses in State

Since September 11, 2001, America has faced the threat of additional attacks by terrorists as well as increased concerns about covert bioterrorism and naturally occurring biologic threats such as SARS and West Nile virus. If health care professionals lack knowledge about the syndromes caused by biological agents or are unprepared to recognize and respond appropriately, an attack could go unrecognized until it is too late, with disastrous results.

In the weeks leading up to the third anniversary of 9/11, the SC AHEC Bioterrorism Training Network and its partners hosted two continuing education conferences intended to create a core group of health professionals throughout South Carolina who are trained to recognize, respond and report bioterrorism and public health emergencies.

On August 28, 2004, The University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy and the SC AHEC BT Network sponsored "Bioterrorism Update for Pharmacists" at Seawell's Banquet Center in Columbia, SC. The program was attended by over 220 pharmacists from across the state.

Harry "Skip" Brandon, a nationally known commentator on terrorism issues and frequent contributor to CNN, MSNBC and Fox News, began the program by providing an overview of the terrorism threat in this country and abroad. Experts from South Carolina provided current clinical information about specific biological threats, treatments and protective equipment. Speakers also addressed the activation of the Strategic National Stockpile of supplies and medications and the psychological impact of a terrorist event or major public health emergency.

On September 10, 2004, The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) College of Nursing, the SC AHEC BT Network, and Lowcountry AHEC sponsored "Be Prepared for the Unthinkable: What Every Nurse Needs to Know about Bioterrorism" at the Holiday Inn Patriot's Point in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

The keynote speaker, Kristine Gebbie, RN, Dr.PH, a nationally recognized expert on bioterrorism and

nurses' roles, outlined the knowledge and skills nurses need to respond competently. Over 150 participants took part in a 9/11 debriefing using psychosocial treatment techniques.

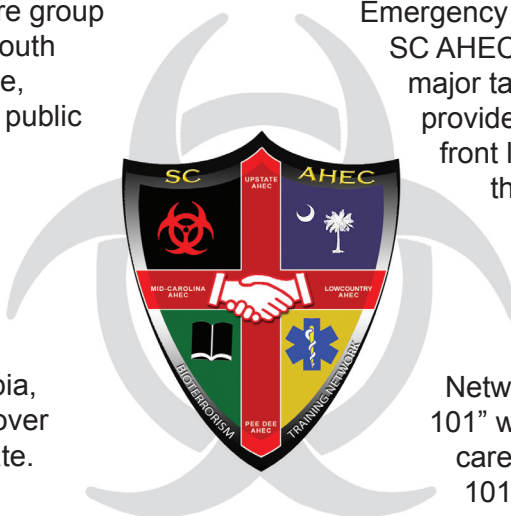
"Even though bioterrorism is unthinkable or seems unlikely, the same patterns of response to a terrorist event are needed in times of natural disasters, epidemics and accidental catastrophes," explains David R. Garr, MD, Executive Director, SC AHEC.

Improved training and coordination are essential for a successful South Carolina response in the event of an attack. "I believe the major task in training health professionals for community health emergencies is *not* the transfer of facts", explains Dr. Ralph Shealy, Director of Charleston County Emergency Services and Co-Director of the SC AHEC Bioterrorism Network. "Our major task as health educators is to provide the environment in which front line practitioners can share their knowledge, training, and experience on how to respond to situations that may not have arisen before."

The SC AHEC Bioterrorism Network has conducted "Bioterrorism 101" workshops for over 5000 health care professionals. "Bioterrorism 101" modules have been developed that cover topics such as specific chemical and biological agents with terrorism potential, strategies to recognize, report and respond to terrorist events, critical steps to take when an event occurs, and insight into potential roles of community health care providers in emergencies.

"The fundamental issue we need to convey is that public health emergencies can happen any time, any place," Garr states. "Health care professionals have a responsibility to receive this kind of training, so we'll have a much better prepared front-line work force."

Information regarding bioterrorism continuing education can be obtained from your local AHEC office or by contacting the SC AHEC Program Office at (843) 792-4431. Online educational resources and additional information are available on the web at [www.scahec.net](http://www.scahec.net) by clicking on the bioterrorism shield.



## Bioterrorism Trainer Deployed to Iraq

By Kevin Kirkwood, Bioterrorism Training Coordinator, Mid-Carolina AHEC

US Army Captain Terry E. Raines, RN, is a native South Carolinian, or “South Cackalackian”, as he likes to say. With over 22 years of service to our country under his belt, Terry has become an expert in the field of Bioterrorism. Until recently, he was stationed at the Army’s Brook Medical Institute in San Antonio, Texas as an Emergency Room RN. At present, Captain Raines has been deployed to serve in Iraq.

Mid-Carolina AHEC utilized his skills as a Bioterrorism Trainer during the first year of the Bioterrorism and Public Health Emergencies Training Network grant activities. Despite being stationed in Texas, he has flown back home to South Carolina and taught numerous Bioterrorism Awareness 101 classes. Those lucky enough to

have attended his classes laud him with praise. The depth and scope of his knowledge is remarkable.

Teaching and constant training for Bioterrorism events takes its toll on a person. Terry says, “You’ve got to keep your sense of humor”. When lecturing on botulinum, the toxin that causes botulism, he questions the class, “Anybody’s Grandma can and jar vegetables? Well, the terrorists are using the same botulinum...just like good ole’ Grandma used to make”. In a more serious tone he reminds each class that terrorists are “limited only by their imagination” in delivering another strike.

While Terry will be further away than usual from his birthplace, those who have participated in his training classes will continue to be South Carolina’s first line of response in the event of a public health emergency. SC AHEC wishes Captain Raines a safe and speedy return.

## Meet Mr. Emergency Preparedness

As an emergency physician and co-director of the SC AHEC Bioterrorism Training Network, Dr. Ralph M. Shealy, is often a man on the run to the next emergency. Dr. Shealy’s experience and ability to train health care professionals to respond in emergency situations makes him an invaluable member of the Network. He looks beyond high tech solutions when addressing public health emergencies to focus on the role each person can play in the event of a disaster.



“Effective personal relationships between people in health and public safety disciplines are the foundation of an effective

response in a public health emergency”, explains Dr. Shealy. “We must develop plans and define processes that will maximize our resources. Then we must practice, practice, practice.”

Dr. Shealy’s background is an impressive record of hard work and dedication. He is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Medical Director (Operations) for Charleston County EMS and Medical Director for the Charleston County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad. Previously, Dr. Shealy was in the private practice of Emergency

Medicine at Roper Hospital for 14 years. He was the founding director of the Department of Emergency Medicine at MUSC, where he served for six years.

He earned a Bachelor’s degree with honors in sociology from Princeton University, and a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He did his premedical studies at Columbia University in New York and earned his MD degree from MUSC. His emergency medicine specialty training was at Wake Forest University.

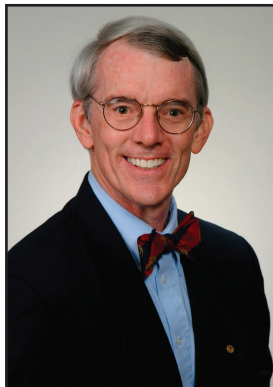
This training and breath of experience lead Dr. Shealy to be invited to serve as Co-Director for the Bioterrorism Training Network. “Ralph has brought a wealth of knowledge to this project but it is his passion for the topic that makes him so valuable”, states Beth Kennedy, Bioterrorism Project Director.

As the Bioterrorism Training Network begins its second year of grant activities, Dr. Shealy is developing table top training exercises for use in walking health care professionals through public health emergency situations while lending his knowledge of successful interdisciplinary communication methods to get the word out about the necessity of this training.

In the meantime, Dr. Shealy continues to answer the call for help. According to Ms. Kennedy, “He is never far from his radio beeper and is always ready to streak out to another emergency where he just might save another life”.

## Family Physician of the Year

William (Bill) Simpson, MD, of Charleston, SC, has been chosen as the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians "2004 Family Physician of the Year". The selection is based on Dr. Simpson's numerous public service and community volunteer activities as well as an illustrious career as a faculty member at the Medical University of South Carolina. His efforts at improving the health and welfare of residents of our community and across the state are truly admirable. The SCAFP Board of Directors agreed that Dr. Simpson served as a role model for family physicians across our state. Dr. Simpson was honored as the SC Family Physician of the Year at the Academy's 56th Annual Scientific Assembly, November 11-13, at the Marriott Beach & Golf Resort on Hilton Head Island.



Dr. Simpson grew up in South Carolina and attended MUSC from 1968 to 1972. He stayed in Charleston for his residency in family medicine from 1972-1975. Dr. Simpson served as an active duty physician in the military for 2 years and remained in the Army reserves until he finally retired as a full Colonel in 2003. During his time in the reserves, he was activated during Operation Desert Storm serving at the Eisenhower Medical Center in Augusta for over a year. After concluding his active duty in 1975, Dr. Simpson joined the faculty in the Department of Family Medicine at MUSC. During his academic career he has been awarded the honor of residency teacher of the year in four different decades and remains one of the most active and dedicated educators in the department. He also has been a faculty member in the MUSC Public Service/ Agromedicine section for the past decade. In this role, he has criss-crossed the state providing education to local physicians and farmers about the occupational hazards and health of people working in the state's agricultural industry. In addition to his public service and teaching responsibilities, Dr. Simpson has demonstrated that he is a scholar as well. Over the past 25 years he has published over 60 articles and served as assistant editor of the Journal of Agromedicine.

In addition to his great success as a faculty member and dedication to MUSC, Dr. Simpson has distinguished himself for his tireless supporter of important causes in our community. Whether it is

the Trident United Way or the Charleston Stage Company, he has been a generous contributor to many community organizations. For the past 20 years he has served as a coordinator and medical volunteer for the Interfaith Crisis Ministries. He serves on the board of directors for Halos, a group that provides services and other family support for abused and neglected children in Charleston County, and was on the board of directors of Elderlink for 7 years. Dr. Simpson also frequently goes on international medical missions to help deliver care to those in developing countries.

Finally, Dr. Simpson has also been an active member of the South Carolina of Family Physicians. He currently serves as a committee member on the Commission for Rural Health and has served on a number of other committees and commissions over the past 20 years.

*- Edited Excerpt from "The South Carolina Family Physician", Volume 42, Fall 2004*

## Diane Jacobs Brings Wealth of Experience to Upstate AHEC

Upstate AHEC proudly welcomes Dianne Jacobs to the staff as the new Health Professions Student Coordinator.

Dianne earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the Medical University of South Carolina and a Master of Science in Nursing, Clinical Specialist in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing from the University of Kentucky. After obtaining her Masters degree, Dianne worked with the National Health Service Corps in rural South Carolina.

Throughout her career, Dianne has held a number of valuable positions including part-time Instructor in the Greenville Technical College School of Nursing, Coordinator of Women's Services at St. Francis Women's and Family Hospital in Greenville and Lifestyle Management Consultant at Mary Black Hospital in Spartanburg.

Dianne's diverse background and rich experience make an excellent addition to the Upstate AHEC team. You can contact Dianne Jacobs at (864) 349-1174 or [djacobs@upstateahec.org](mailto:djacobs@upstateahec.org).





## HC Tracker Moves Forward

The HC Tracker "Super User" training was a great success. Charlie Smith, president of Compquip, the vendor who supplies HC Tracker, conducted the intense and hands-on training for the new data management system.

According to Melissa Blevins of Upstate AHEC, "The HC Tracker system is user-friendly, comprehensive and intuitive to navigate. I am optimistic about the potential benefits to SC AHEC resulting from the implementation of this new data collection system."

This early training is only the beginning. During the next month, the Super User group will be testing the system using a connection to the vendor's testing database. The group will also meet via conference call to reflect and review what was learned in training. Out of these meetings, new specific guidelines for using HC Tracker will be proposed

in preparation for the system implementation in January 2005. The software should be installed in the Centers before January and HC Tracker training will be conducted in each region for all interested personnel.

Thanks to all the Super Users who attended all-day training on either October 22 or 29.

### Mid-Carolina

Pam Harper  
Debbie Lewis  
Imogene Grubbs

### Pee Dee

Judy Jones  
Jackie Brown

### Upstate

Melissa Blevins  
Diane Bishop

### Lowcountry

Tonya Faircloth  
Emily Warren

### Program Office

Beth Kennedy  
Paula Jones-Hamilton



## Upcoming SC AHEC Events

### December 6, 2004

**Increasing Minorities in Health Care: Partnerships for Success**, Embassy Suites Hotel, 200 Stoneridge Drive, Columbia, SC

**Hosted by:** SC AHEC Student Development and Diversity Program

**Mission:** To strengthen South Carolina's health care workforce and close its health disparities gap by increasing the number of underrepresented minorities in the health professions.

**For More Information:** Contact Angelica Williams at 843-792-4432 or williaa@musc.edu.

### January 2005

#### Protecting Our Elders From Abuse

All of us have the potential of finding ourselves in settings that put us at risk for being mistreated and/or abused. Some families and individuals are more at risk than others. This workshop will highlight vulnerable individuals, explore explosive situations, examine some forms of abuse, and will provide some suggestions and techniques for intervention and prevention.

**Presenter:** Charlotte Jones Thom, MSW, LISW:

Among Charlotte's variety of experiences, she has 11 years practicing as a private consultant for long-term care facilities providing training and education in elder care and services, staff and family interventions, elder rights and resources, elder abuse prevention along with multiple social services.

This workshop is being provided around South Carolina by SC AHEC and the SC Center for Gerontology.

#### Dates, Locations & Contact Information:

##### January 21, 2005

Camden, SC  
Contact Mid-Carolina AHEC at 803-286-4121

##### February 16, 2005

Florence, SC  
Contact Pee Dee AHEC at 843-777-5343

##### March 24, 2005

Greenwood, SC  
Contact Upstate AHEC at 864-349-1160

##### April 22, 2005

Charleston, SC  
Contact Lowcountry AHEC at 843-792-4431



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## CALL FOR ARTICLES

The editorial staff of “SC AHEC Connects” welcomes the submission of articles, success stories, upcoming events and news for the Spring Edition.

Please forward information, articles and photos to  
Ragan DuBose at [duboser@musc.edu](mailto:duboser@musc.edu).

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS  
FEBRUARY 1, 2005!

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